

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /025 W

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R 041245Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0088

USDA/FAS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS ALEXANDRIA 0152

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN ONION EXPORTS

REF: 75 CAIRO 11105

1. EGYPTIAN 1976 EXPORT ONION CROP NOW BEING HARVESTED. MIN AGRICULTURE SPOKESMAN SAYS EXPORT TARGET FOR THIS YEAR IS 150,000 METRIC TONS. WE ESTIMATE 1975 ONION EXPORTS ABOUT 29,000 METRIC TONS. FIRST EXPORT SHIPMENT (6000 TONS) SCHEDULED LEAVE ALEXANDRIA FOR HAMBURG, WEST GERMANY, IN MID-MARCH.

2. DESPITE SOME EFFORT LIBERALIZE EXPORT TRADE IN LINE WITH PRESIDENT SADAT'S OPEN-DOOR ECONOMIC POLICY, ONLY 40 PERCENT ONION EXPORTS AVAILABLE TO PRIVATE SECTOR. ON FEBRUARY 28, MIN AGRICULTURE ANNOUNCED INTERNAL PURCHASE PRICE INCREASES FOR MEDIUM AND LOWER GRADES ONLY, LEAVING "GRADE EXTRA" (PREMIUM) ONION PURCHASE PRICE FIXED AT LE. 40 (U.S. \$84) PER TON. SINCE ONIONS ARE SELLING IN LOCAL MARKETPLACE AT 8 PIASTRES PER KILO (LE. 80 PER TON), GROWERS PREFER TO SELL FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION. WE UNDERSTAND PRICE IS 10.5 PIASTRES A KILO (LE. 105 PER TON) IN CAIRO RETAIL TRADE.

3. OTHER PRICE LEVELS SET FOR PURCHASE BY GOE COOPERA-
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TIVES ARE LE. 33 PER TON FOR "FIRST GRADE" (UP FROM LE. 27),

LE. 30 FOR "SECOND GRADE" (UP FROM LE. 25) AND "THIRD GRADE"
UP TO LE. 23 FROM LE. 17.

4. UNLESS DOMESTIC MARKET PRESSURES EASE MEASURABLY,
POTENTIAL EXPORT MARKETING THROUGH GOVERNMENT ORGANIZA-
TIONS WILL REMAIN RELATIVELY UNATTRACTIVE.
CHASE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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